

Srisailam Left Bank Canal

2924. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Srisailam Left Bank Canal Scheme is pending before the Central Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons for pendency; and
- (c) the steps being taken for its early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The project at an estimated cost of Rs.480.00 crores was received in CWC in February, 1985. On examination, it was found that the project was based on surplus flow in Krishna river over and above its share in water at 75% dependability, the availability of which is not certain. Accordingly, the State Government was requested in August, 1986 to submit modified report after establishing availability of water on long terms basis. State Government submitted updated estimate at Rs.967.00 crores in March, 1993 without establishing availability of water on long term basis. The State Government was again requested in May, 1993 to establish water availability on long term basis. It has also been suggested to the State Government either to obtain the concurrence of the Krishna basin states or formulate a well substantiated project document for modernisation of existing schemes in the basin to save the required quantity of water for this project and establish techno-economic viability thereof.

(c) The clearance of the project depends upon how soon the State Government complies with the observations of Central Appraising Agencies and obtains clearances from the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Welfare as required.

Improved Indo-Pak Cultural Relations

2925. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have a proposal to improve Indo-Pak cultural relations; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Governments of both the countries in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Government of India is of the view that enhanced people-to-people contacts including cultural exchanges etc. between India and Pakistan would help in promoting better understanding between the two countries.

(b) The approach of Government of India is to pursue liberalised visa policy for Pak Nationals, including intellectuals, scholars, sportsmen, artists etc., desirous of visiting India. Regretfully the Government of

Pakistan follows restrictive visa regime for all Indian Nationals visiting Pakistan. Government of India hope that Government of Pakistan would also take measures to facilitate people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges.

Utilising of Rain Water

2926. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are encouraging researches for utilising the hitherto unutilised rain water for solving the water shortages in many parts of the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any technique exists for utilising the rain water, the extend of its application in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research schemes being encouraged for utilising rain water include schemes on ground water recharge, development of integrated watershed management models and other storage facilities.

(c) Full utilisation of rain water is not possible due to evaporation and vegetative (transpiration) losses and due to allowing certain amount of water to flow in the river for maintaining the river regime. However, through large and small dams and reservoirs, storage can be created on the river systems to store a limited quantity of rain water. Out of a total available utilisable water of 1142 billion cubic metres in the country, the present (1994) utilisation of water (surface and ground) is about 606 billion cubic metres i.e. 53% leaving 536 billion cubic metres of utilisable water as unutilised.

[Translation]

Nehru Yuva Kendra, Bihar

2927. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to open a Nehru Yuva Kendra at Garhwa district in Bihar is under consideration;

(b) if so, the time by which the Kendra is likely to be opened;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITAHAN R.) : (a) to (c). Nehru Yuva Kendra at Garhwa (Bihar) has already been opened.